NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The Windsor improvements are to be delayed, it is rumoured, till the Government can conveniently provide the 200,000*l.* necessary for their accomplishment.——The second graving dock at Southampton is almost completed. This piece of brickwork must have required some little skill in 'naval architecture,' for it is 'turned to the shape of a ship's hull.' It is relieved with masonry, and the cost is not more than a third of what it would have been if built of stone.——The Portland Harbour of Refuge is going on swimmingly. An addition of 100 men has just been made to the working corps of 200, previously engaged, and from time to time it will be further greatly augmented.——The Newport waterworks are in rapid progress, and the force of the water has been proved sufficient to supply the chamber story of every building in the upper part of the town.——The alterations and improvements of St. Julian's Church, Shrewsbury, are now nearly completed. A tablet has been erected in commemoration of the Rev. R. Scott's 'generous spirit and noble liberality,' detailing that he had caused an effective architectural character to be given to the exterior of the south side of this sacred edifice, and had added stone piers, pilasters, portals, &c., erected an ornamental stone wall and parapet round the churchyard, flagged and paved areas and footways, renewed steps, roofed the chancel, painted, cleansed, &c. The architectural improvements were designed and executed by Mr. Dodson, of Shrewsbury. The work has latterly been completed by the removal of the lobby roof, and the isolation of the old tower from the body of the building thus effected.——In complaining of the burial of the proposed cemetery, at Cambridge, in apparent oblivion, a correspondent of the *Cambridge Chronicle* remarks, that "it is rather remarkable, and not very consolatory to remark, that in this renowned place building projects are not only expensive, as compared with the like in other places, but also very slow of execution."——The Roman Catholic chapel in Willow-lane, Norwich, has been renovated and embellished. The interior, says the *Norwich Chronicle*, has been gorgeously decorated in the Byzantine style, under the superintendence of Mr. Bulmer. In the windows, ten in number, stained glass has been placed, throwing a sombre and subdued light into the chapel. The entire ceiling and the walls of the edifice, the pilasters, the window splays and organ pipes, have been decorated, and all the furniture of the chapel is of corresponding description. In regard to decorations and embellishments, they say, no church or chapel in this eastern district can be at all compared with this building.——Besides the recasing and restoring of St. Luke's Chapel, at the Norwich Cathedral, by Messrs. Brown and Kerr, the cathedral architects, three Norman windows have been substituted for the mullioned nondescripts formerly introduced, and the whole crowned with the Norman coping, of the pattern recovered by Professor Willis, in Ely Cathedral. Into the east, north, and west upper windows of the great lantern tower, eight canopied figures in painted glass, by the late Mr. Yarington, have been introduced. The painted window at the eastern end of the triforium has been recently removed to the south transept, and replaced by a Norman arch, executed by Mr. James Watson, under the direction of Mr. Brown. In this arch Mr. Warrington has placed a memorial window of a Norman character, from the original example in the north window of Brayborne Church, in Kent.——The corporation, it seems, says the *Lincolnshire Times*, have found it impossible to carry out their design of providing a public cemetery, as not only the consent of bishop and clergy, but of residents in the vicinity, as well as the owners of the property pitched upon, might prevent the obtaining of the Act.

Surrey and East Kent Sewers.—A correspondent calls our attention to an extensive work now being performed under the Commissioners of Sewers for Surrey and Kent, in arching over the river Effra, or, as it is called, Brixton Washway; on which 200 men are daily employed. Mr. Joseph Gwilt is the surveyor, and Mr. Munday the contractor.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

A general court was held on Friday, Nov. 5; Capt. Geo. Bague, R.N., in the chair.

The Sanatory Commission at Gwydyr House.—The clerk read a letter from Mr. Austin, the secretary to the Metropolitan Sanatory Commission, now sitting at Gwydyr House, asking the permission of this court that Colonel Hall, clerk of the Ordnance, may be at liberty to inspect the plans, sections, &c., of the Westminster Commission of Sewers. A further request was made for a list of the commissioners, with the professions and qualifications of those who had transacted the business of the court for the last seven years.

The chairman said he was given to understand that this was the body which was to seal the doom of the present commissioners.

Mr. Branscombe thought that whatever arrangement was made, the business of the court would not be performed so economically. He had, however, been told that they would not last till Christmas, and that one of their present commissioners was to be appointed as the head of the new body, at a fixed salary.

Rating the Great-Western Railway.—Mr. Justins, clerk to Messrs. Mapleson and Co., solicitors to the Great-Western Railway Company, presented himself to appeal against the sewer-rate charged upon that company, amounting to 96*l.* In support of this appeal Mr. Justins stated, that no poor-rate exists for the premises of the company at Paddington. An action had been entered by the parochial authorities for the recovery of the rate, but shortly before the time of trial the record had been withdrawn, and the question had been agreed to be referred to arbitration. Therefore, he contended, that as no poor-rate had been made, no sewer-rates could be founded on a rate that had no legal existence. The ground of resistance of the Great-Western Railway Company was, that in the early part of the year 1844 they were rated to the poor-rates for 3,000*l.*, but in the latter part of the same year a second rate was made, taking the extraordinary leap from 3,000*l.* to 7,650*l.*, which the company refused to pay, and the parish officers seized one of the railway engines. The company replevied, and the question was carried to one of the superior courts, when the record was withdrawn, and an application made that the proceedings be stayed; at the same time agreeing to submit the matter to the arbitration of Mr. G. F. Pollock, whose award would bind all parties. Under these circumstances, he was of opinion that no sewer-rate could be claimed based upon this disputed calculation.

Mr. Harrison said the court was not bound by this hypothesis, and had nothing to do with the dispute between the parish and the company. A request might be made, that the collection of the sewer-rate be postponed, but a protest against it could not be received.

Mr. Justins acceded to the suggestion of the hon. commissioner, and prayed that the collection of the sewer-rate might be suspended until the award of Mr. Pollock was made. The company had been for nearly twelve months producing evidence before the arbitrator, and, *pendente lite*, no rates had been paid. The last rate was paid in 1844, but he thought the whole question would be brought to a close in the present term.

The suggestion of Mr. Harrison was then embodied in a motion, and carried unanimously.

The court then proceeded to open tenders for 194 feet of sewer at South End, Kensington, which were as follow:—

Norton and Son	£144
R. Robinson	109
J. and S. Williams	108
Yeoman	108
Perkins	98
Hutton (accepted)	95

A letter was received from a Mrs. Webb, occupying premises opposite St. Luke's Church, Chelsea, setting forth that, wishing to drain her house into the sewer, she applied to this court to know to whom it belonged, when she was informed that it was the property of the Chelsea Church commissioners, to whom she paid about 10*l.* for the required accommodation. Since then she had been waited upon by Mr. Farlar's agent, making a demand of upwards of 19*l.* for this privilege on behalf of a Mr. Gigner, stating that the sewer really belonged to him, and not to the church commissioners. She had subsequently been served with a writ of trial in the Marshalsea Court for the amount, and now sought the advice of this court under the circumstances, as she had acted on the information received from their officers.

This subject led to a long discussion, and it was finally resolved, on the motion of Mr. Le Breton, by a majority of 16 to 8, that as Mrs. Webb had acted on the advice received from the officers of this court, that their solicitor do defend the action of Mr. Gigner against Mrs. Webb, and take such steps as he may deem expedient.

The Drainage of Long Acre.—Mr. Le Breton said he had great pleasure in moving that the order of court for building 1,825 feet of sewer in Long Acre, be sanctioned and confirmed.

Mr. Hawkes did not approve of the plan, but believed the work so desirable that he should not oppose it.

The clerk wished to know whether the owners of the property were to be charged as the work went on, or that they should wait till it was completed.

It appeared to be the general opinion that, before any contribution was required, the work should be finished.—The order was then sanctioned unanimously.

The Powers of the Commission.—The solicitor of the court produced the opinion of the Attorney-general and Mr. Bovill on a case ordered to be submitted to them by the last court, in reference to a question put by Mr. Carter, a notice of which appeared in The Builder of the 30th ult. The opinion was as follows:—

"We are of opinion, that under the Act of the 10 & 11 Vict., contributions can be obtained from persons who may hereafter avail themselves of sewers then existing, only where such sewers have been constructed within thirty-five years *before* the passing of the Act; and that in those cases the remedy for enforcing contributions will be by an order of the commissioners so provided under the seventh section of the recited statute; but we think the commissioners ought not to direct the payment of such contribution by instalments.

"With respect to sewers constructed *after* the passing of the Act, we think the commissioners can enforce contribution under that statute only where they have themselves constructed the sewer, and by charging the owners of the frontage under the provisions of the ninth section; but there may also be cases in which the commissioners might be able to effect some beneficial arrangements under the former statutes and bye-laws.

"We are also of opinion that, under the late Act, the commissioners may take upon themselves the formation of the drains for private houses to the sewer, but that in such cases they would not be entitled to charge the expense upon the owners or occupiers of the property so drained, or to include in it the frontage proportion payable in respect of the sewer. "John Jervis,

"Temple, Nov. 3, 1847. William Bovill."

The case and opinion were ordered to be printed and laid before the court.

The court sanctioned an order for 1,130 feet of sewer in Newman-street, Marylebone.

Several letters were received from Mr. Farlar, calling upon the court to put in force the powers of the Act, by compelling parties resident in Robert's-place to drain their houses into the sewer, so that he might obtain a return of the money advanced by him in its formation.

Mr. Hawkes said it was the bounden duty of those who obtained the Act to carry it out for the public benefit.

Mr. Willoughby deprecated any commissioner calling upon this court to put in operation the powers of the Act for any particular place, as, whenever they were required, it might be deemed necessary to include a whole district. He should therefore move that the report be laid on the table.

The chairman was of opinion that a day weekly should be set apart for the consideration of any letters that might be received, which, as he some time ago anticipated, now accumulated to a great degree. As he was upon his legs he wished to advert to the expiration of the commission, and, unless it were renewed, it would merge into the hands of the county magistrates, any six of whom might attend to do the business of the commission.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson said it was highly necessary to secure parties a return of their money laid out for the public good, and he thought the clerk or the solicitor should lay down some plan for the consideration of these cases, or that they should appoint a special day to consider the whole question.

The matter then dropped.

In reference to the termination of the commission alluded to by the chairman, the clerk was ordered to communicate with the secretary to the Lord Chancellor upon the subject.

The clerk brought under the notice of the court the application of the Sewage Manure Company, as to a proposed conduit from the Ranelagh sewer by Sloane-square to the Counter's-creek sewer by Stanley-bridge, and, after some discussion, he was ordered to communicate to the Sewage Manure Company that the notices were irregular and not in conformity with the Act of Parliament.

A rate of 3d. in the pound was ordered on the eastern division of Westminster sewers.

The surveyor presented a report on the drainage of Cumberland-street, Grey's-place, Bull's-garden, &c., Chelsea, which represented the existing state as of a most pestilential character, and proposed to remedy the same by building two new sewers, and arching over or entirely filling in an old one; the whole of which improvement he estimated at 590*l.*—The report was adopted.

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